(c) CIPMC, Hyderabad has organized 1,002 FFSs so far. Over 9.38 lakh hectares have been covered under pest monitoring and 2,573 million bio-control agents have been released in 7.14 lakh hectares for the control of different pests and diseases. Various IPM activities conducted by the centre have contributed to increase in crop yield and reduction in consumption of chemical pesticides from 4,741 metric tonne (MT) during 1998-99 to 1,400 MT during 2008-09.

Rise in cost of paddy cultivation

2479. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the input cost in paddy cultivation has gone up;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether farmers are reluctant of releasing their stocks of paddy in the market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir, The input cost of cultivation of Paddy has gone up in recent years, noticeably from 2007-08, due to increase in cost on account of human labour, machine labour, etc.

(c) and (d) Under the existing policy of foodgrains procurement, all the foodgrains conforming to the prescribed specifications offered for sale at specified centres are bought by the public procurement agencies. The producers have the option to sell their produce to FCI/ State Agencies at MSP or in open market as it is advantageous to them.

Arrival of paddy in mandies for procurement in the central pool/open market during current Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2009-10 as on 07.12.2009 has increased to 215.44 lakh tonnes against 210.39 lakh tonnes in the corresponding period in KMS 2008-09.

Effect of recent flood on Kharif crops in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka

†2480. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the effect of recent devastating floods in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka in production of Kharif crops; and

(b) the percentage decrease in sugarcane production due to this flood and its likely effect on production of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Recent devastating floods in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have caused reduction of area of Kharif crops. An area of 2.4 lakh hectares and 21.93 lakh hectares have been affected in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka respectively, which will adversely affect Kharif crop production.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) As per 1st advanced estimate released by Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES) the production of sugarcane in the country during 2009-10 has come down to 2494.81 lakh tones compared to last year is 2946.56 lakh tonnes (2008-09) and about 15.33% lesser than the previous year.

Low agriculture productivity

2481. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that dependence of Indian farmers on rain is the main cause for fluctuation in agricultural production year after year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that China can produce twice and Australia five times the amount of rice per acre than India;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the main cause of low productivity is that Indian farmer is being drip fed like in a hospital with cheap rice, one-upmanship and other negatives created by such subsidies; and

(d) if so, the steps Government has taken or proposes to take to address the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Indian agriculture is mostly dependent on rainfall as about 60% of the cultivated area is rainfed. Agricultural production is affected by extreme fluctuation in intensity, distribution and extent of rainfall.

(b) The productivity of paddy in India is comparatively at lower side than that of China & Australia. The production of paddy during 2004 to 2007 in these countries as per FAO's report is as follows:

(Kg per hectare)

Country	Year			
	2004	2005	2006	2007
Australia	8330.5	6616.7	9828.2	8150.0
China	6308.5	6252.6	6276.3	6422.3
India	2975.5	3153.7	3194.5	3302.9

(c) and (d) No, Sir. In order to meet the demand of growing population in the country Government of India has taken several initiatives to enhance the productivity of rice in the country through crops Development schemes that support the efforts of the farmer. Under these schemes assistance is given to the farmers to improve the soil health through micro nutrients and balance doses of fertilizers, timely availability of credit, improved crop production technology, better quality seed of rice varieties/hybrids, Integrated Pest Management/Integrated Nutrients Management, demonstra-tions on improved package of practices, improved farm implements and farm machinery etc.